Civil & Religious

INTELLIGENCER.

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CONTENTS OF MONITOR NO. 6.

Thoughts on Detraction - - 241
Report of the Jews - 242, 262, 266
Letter from Mr. Pinkerton - - 244
Distribution of the Bible - - 245
Revivals of Religion - - 246, 261
Answer to a letter - - - 248
Conversion of a Jew - - - 249
Journal of Abdool Messeh - 253, 260
Report of the Prudential Committee 256
Stereotype Bibles—Auxiliaries - 259
Sabbath School examination - 260, 269
Offerings to Gunga - - - 269
Report (12th) of the B. and F. B. society 270
A fact. Theatrical defeat. B. Society 273
Enigma—The answer - - 274
Public meeting - - - - 275
Address to Children. - - 277
Progress of the Christian Religion 279
Religious Tracts - - 286
Judgment and Mercy - - 288

Providential Deliverance.

A sketch of the perils and sufferings of the passengers and crew of the brig WILLIAM, from Newfoundland for Bristol, JOSEPH BANNO, master.

The vessel sailed in the month of August, 1816, from Newfoundland, with a cargo of oil and sealskins, having on board Mr. and Mrs. Warren and four infant children, passengers, with the captain, four sailors and a cabin boy, and reached the Bristol channel early in the month of September when in the storm of Monday the 9th, the vessel was embayed in Carmarthen Bay, and although the wind was somewhat moderated on the Tuesday, the whole of the day was spent in fruitless exertions to regain the Channel, and the captain had the mortification to experience that, with all his efforts, every tack brought his vessel nearer to the shore and to her destruction.

In this awful situation the day closed, the ship's lights were hung out and signals of distress were made, but unfortunately without avail—they were seen and heard by the inhabitants of the neighboring shores: but the storm raged, and they had no means of affording assistance to the sufferers.

About nine o'clock in the evening, the wind blowing hard upon the land, the vessel struck the ground with a most tremendous shock, and after driving and striking the ground several times, she finally struck, in the opinion of the captain, beyond all hope of recovery, and necessity forced him to the painful resolution of abandoning her.

The long boat was ordered down, and in the lowering of which it struck on the gunnel of the ship, bilged its bottom and became leaky; horror succeeded to horror, hideous darkness extended the terror, and the belief for the moment pervaded every mind that this lost hope was the last.

But the boat was found capable of floating, though deep in leakage water. A rope fastened to the boat retained it to the ship, and enabled the weary mariners who were dropped down in it to regain the vessel when separated by the driving sea.

One moment the boat raised high aloft above the side of the ship, was threatened with destruction by being dashed to pieces on the deck, the next it was sunk into an abyss from which the appalled heart feared it would rise no more, and when the anxious expectation was prepared to board it, the swelling sea would hurl it far from the ship and out of the reach of hope, under the murky darkness of the awful night, until at length the vigilant and dauntless seamen placed it within the reach of a desperate leap.

Horror giving strength to natural exertions, at length enabled the gallant crew to place the four infant children, the youngest not four years of age, in the boat, by throwing them like a ball of inert matter, one at a time, from the vessel into the arms of a sailor who stood up in the boat to catch them; but before a second child could, in like manner as the first, be hazarded to the mercy of Providence, the revolving waves would hurry the boat into the terror of darkness and uncertainty to the length of its rope, when the fortunate moment was again embraced and another child was caught in the arms of the heroic sailor.

And the small party were at length placed in the leaky boat to encounter new perils.

The gallant captain, was still on board, with two of the crew, when, in mistake the rope, by which the boat was lashed, was cut by one of the boatmen, and it parted from the ship under the anxious dread, the moment the error was discovered, that they should never again see the meritorious partners of their sufferings.

The small boat of the vessel, however, although of a size that two slight men could conveniently carry it, as yet remained on board, and to this the captain and two brave companions committed themselves to a tempestuous sea; when rude pieces of wood were hoped to supply the places of oars. The waves, the surge, the wind blowing in tempestuous blasts forwarded them towards the shore, and at length, after on hour's tossing upon the surgy billows the large boat took the ground and the small one passed further on.

Every moment overwhelmed with the breaking waves, and before they recovered their spent breath, the gathering waves again deluged them in misery, as if determined to tear them back to their parent ocean. The sailors, as soon as they had recovered themselves in a small degree from the fatigue of their exertions, dropped themselves over the side of the boat, and finding as they supposed the rocks under their feet, waded forward in search of greater safety.

The wretched father and mother for a time apprehended that the sailors had deserted them, to return no more, and half drowned with the lashing of the waves they felt all the horror of despondency! when the captain, ran his little boat ashore; and hastening once more to their preservation, rallied his sailors, and by the greatest exertion of human powers, stemed the the waves, and with their dying passengers upon their backs, and in their arms placed them beyond the fury of the storm, and revived their lost hope of ever regaining the shore.

The children, lifeless with fright, and benumbed, wet and cold from the drenching of the sea, and the parents weak and exhausted were by the meritorious exertions of the sailors, carried and supported over a tract of sand and rocky skers, covered each day with the returning tides for upwards of three miles, when the opening moon, about two o'clock in the morning, discovered to their ravished sights a few white cottages on the side of the mountain.

Enthusiastic rapture at their Maker's mercy, and hearts beating with joy, encouraged the sufferers to drag on their wearied limbs, and at length they reached the humble cottage of a seashore cottager. The voice of nature, unsophisticated by the vice of cities, appeared in this cottage in her native virtues; to the first call the door was open, and though ignorant of each other's language, the voice of pity spoke in common terms. Unstripped of their drenched clothes, the shift, the shirt of the cottagers covered their trembling guests who, with their dying infants, were hurried into beds from which their hosts had risen; warm teas were then provided, and blessings of gratitude filled the cottage.

On the following morning, to the unspeakable joy of the party, they all met together, and united in common prayer and grateful thanks to their Maker for their miraculous preservation from the shattered bark, now prostrate on its side with its seams rent asunder.

On the next Sunday morning the sailors attended at Cidwelly Church, to offer up their grateful thanks in prayer; when the inhabitants, opened a subscription to purchase for them a few of the necessaries of life, and to enable them to return to their homes, and which was attended with a gratifying effect in raising in so small a place an adequate sum of money.

MISSISSIPPI TERRITORY.

The local discussion which has taken place in this territory, on the propriety of becoming a state, has given us the first information of its vast extent. It contains 190,000 square miles, equal to 60,000,000 acres; and is as large as New-York and Pennsylvania together, and more than twice as large as the 8 states of Vermont, New-Hampshire, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Massachusetts proper. The advocates for territorial government contend with propriety, that its limits are too large for a state; that states when organized, are seldom divided: and that it is therefore preferable to wait till the population is such as will constitute two or more states.

Judging from the rapid increase of population in Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee; and from the soil and climate of a great portion of the Mississippi territory, it is not unreasonable to calculate, that in thirty years its population will be equal to the population of these three states, 750,000. What a field for splendid contemplation does our western country unfold! A country of vast extent, from Lake Superior to the Gulph of Mexico, and of still greater longitude, remains to be peopled, with partial exceptions. And when we consider that nature has strewed her gifts with a bountiful hand over this vast wilderness; and take into view the enterprise of our population, the mind is lost in the magnitude of the objects which seem rising in futurity.

Argus.

THE CHRISTIAN'S
WEEKLY MONITOR.

From the Christian Herald.

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT.

An Address to Children who give part of their Pocket Money for the Spread of the Gospel.

Dear Children—It gives much pleasure to your parents, to your friends, and to all who love God, to see you come forward with good-will, to give a little of your pocket money, for so good a purpose as sending the Gospel of Jesus Christ to thousands of poor ignorant and wicked people a great way off. This is very pleasing to God also, if you do it in a right spirit, with a view to his glory, and the salvation of your fellow-creatures.

Dear Children, you are called Christians; you have been baptized in the name of Christ, and you have been taught to trust in Christ alone for salvation: you have been taught to pray to God as your Father, in the name of Christ: and you are led to hope for the pardon of your sins; for holiness of heart; for the comforts of religion: and for eternal happiness when you die, through the merits of Jesus Christ alone. All this you owe to the goodness of God, who caused you to be born in a land of Gospel light, where we have the Bible, which is the best book in the world, because it is the book of God; where we have churches, and meetings, where the servants of Christ preach his word for our instruction: where our dear friends unite in solemn prayers and cheerful praises. Through the same goodness of God, you have parents and friends who love you dearly, feed and clothe you, and bring you up in the fear of the Lord; who take care of you when you are sick, and do every thing in their power to make you happy.

But had you been born in a heathen country, you would not have enjoyed these blessings. There are many millions of mankind who know nothing at all of the only living and true God. They ought, indeed, to think that the sun, and moon, and stars, and birds, beasts, and fishes could not make themselves; that some one who is great and wise, and good, did make them: they should try to find out who he is, and how they may serve and please him: but in general, they have no thought nor desire of this kind; and, if they worship any thing it is the sun and moon, or four footed beasts and creeping things, or images, which they themselves have made of wood and stone, or gold and silver; and they sometimes worship these in a very wicked manner, and do very bad things, while they call it religion. The people who formerly lived in Egypt, worshipped cats and dogs, apes, oxen, wolves, and crocodiles. Even the pretended gods of the heathen were wicked. Their Mercury was a thief, Bacchus a drunkard, Venus a bad woman, and Jove an undutiful son; and it is no wonder that the people should be like their gods, and therefore they were guilty of theft, lying, murder, and every sort of crime.

It would shock you to hear how cruel many of the heathen were. You read in Scripture that some fathers and mothers were so hardhearted that they made their children pass through the fire to Moloch. This Moloch, they say, was an image made of brass having the head of a bullock; and

being hollow was filled with fire, and made red hot; and then the poor children were put into his arms, and so burnt to death; and in the mean time drums and loud instruments of music were sounded to drown the screams of the tortured babes.

In some countries, instead of tenderly nursing their infants, as your dear mothers nursed you, they throw them away in woods and commons, to be destroyed by lions, tygers, and wolves. In China, where your tea comes from, it is said that nine thousand children are left to perish every year in the city of Pekin; and among the Hindoos, children are hung up in trees, in baskets, and devoured by birds of prey, and others are starved to death.

In some parts of the world, particularly in New Zealand, and in Sumatra, they eat the flesh of their prisoners taken in war, and of those who have been condemned as malefactors. A few years ago, an English captain of a ship, which had been wrecked on the coast of Sumatra, went into the country, and saw a small round place, fenced in, and supposed it contained some live turtles, or other creatures for food; but O! how was he astonished, when he found there three boys under the care of an old man, who informed him that they had been brought there by pirates (or water thieves,) who used to steal children in the island of Pulo Nyas, and either sell them for slaves, or to be fatted and eaten by the cannibals. Two children, he said had been so treated the day before. Captain Welsh, for that was his name, to preserve these children from such a dreadful end, purchased them at the price of 164 dollars, and put them safely on board another ship. One of them, called Thomas Chance, he put to school in Calcutta, under the care of the Missionaries, and one he took home with him to England.

When the Rev. Mr. Thorp read the story to a company of gentlemen in Bristol, (England) who were met to petition the Parliament of Great-Britian against the SLAVE TRADE, (which is buying and selling men, women & children, for slaves) he spoke as follows:—

"Sir, I am the father of a large family; three of them are little ones. Many a time and oft have I looked upon them, sometimes with tears of grief sometimes with tears of joy. While perusing this story, my imagination placed them in the situation of the little natives of Pula Nyas, torn from their country, cooped in and fattening for slaughter. I saw, a delivering angel, in the form of that benevolent Captain, overlooking their enclosure, inquiring into their condition, paying the price of their ransom, and bearing them away to the land of freedom. And I will now honestly tell you what were my feelings in the contemplation of such a scene. May the God of mercy (I involuntarily exclaimed) pour down the choicest of his blessings on the head of this humane Captain; may he long preserve his invaluable life, as an ornament to his country, & a blessing to mankind; and after a prosperous voyage over a tempestuous world, may he receive him and the little innocents whom he rescued from the teeth of cannibals into the harbor of eternal rest!"

And as they are so cruel to children, so they are also to women, when their husbands die. In the East Indies, when a man dies they burn his body, instead of burying it: and when they have placed it on some wood, his widow lies down by the corpse, and both are burned to ashes, together: and what is still more shocking, the eldest son himself sets fire to the wood to burn his poor mother. This dreadful custom still continues, and they say that thirty thousand women are burnt to death in this manner every year.

In other places they treat sick and old people very cruelly. Many a poor sick widow who is thought burdensome to her children, is buried alive: and many old men are brought to the side of a river to be drowned by the tide.

Slaves are very barbarously treated in some places. Many have been murdered by their young masters, merely for sport; some thrown into fish-ponds to feed the fish. Many slaves used to be put to death to honor the funerals of their dead masters. Some nations, when they take prisoners in war put them all to death; and some toast them at a fire and eat their flesh. In some countries they kill innocent men, and offer them up as sacrifices to their Gods; they did so in many parts of Europe before the Gospel came thither, and they do so still in some of the South Sea Islands.

Now it is to put a stop to all these horrid practices that Missionaries are sent to heathen countries, that Bibles and Religious Tracts are circulated among the needy all over the world; and wherever the Gospel comes, attended with the power of the Holy Spirit, people turn from their dumb idols to serve the living God: they learn to put their trust in Christ alone for salvation; their wicked hearts are made new and holy, and they are brought to love God and to love one another. Then they are no longer cruel; but become kind, charitable, tender hearted, and desirous of doing all the good they can, that God their Saviour may be pleased and glorified, and the souls of men made happy for ever.

Dear children, consider it a privilege and an honor to be permitted to contribute in any measure, however small, your mites, to help on this good work; and esteem it a blessing that God is pleased thus to incline your young hearts to promote his glory; but while you are seeking the salvation of others, see to it that you are yourselves saved—saved from guilt and sin, and made new creatures in Christ Jesus; that you are dutiful to your parents, attentive to ministers, diligent at school, earnest in prayer, and good to all. For this purpose read the scriptures every day, and pray the God that you may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; that it may be truly said of you, as it was of that good young man Timothy, "From a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation, thro' faith which is in Christ Jesus."—Thus will you best prove that you have a proper sense of the value of the Gospel of the Grace of God, by cherishing it in your own hearts; and thus will you best recommend to others to become partakers of its blessings by making your light shine before men, that they, seeing your good works, may glorify your heavenly Father, from whom cometh down every good and every perfect gift.

From Spooner's Vermont Journal.

The attention which the Christian religion excite in the public mind, and the progress which is making in converting a multitude of souls from sin unto righteousness, must be highly gratifying to every pious believer. To take a comparative view of the manner in which the truths of the gospel were received among men a few years since and at the present time, and notice the contrast, must be a source of pleasure to every friend to the cause of the Redeemer. Speculative philosophers considered the word of

God as a system which originated in the visionary brains of ignorant and enthusiastic men. The historical part they rejected as fabulous; and the idea that any portion of the sacred volume was written by divine insperation was treated with derision and contempt.

They acknowledge that the book contained many good ideas on morality, but as a system it was considered infinitely inferior to the laws of nature or the religion of man. They declared that the gospel contained principles calculated to keep mankind in ignorance; and that it was the interests of priests to inculcate these principles, in order to insure themselves a degree of spect and veneration. Men had made great progress in the sciences during the last century—and should they still continue to progress in the same ratio that they had, for a few succeeding ages, all things would be accounted for. The time would soon come when the world would be liberated from the thraldoms of ignorance and superstition, and would view things in a rational light, unbiassed by the prejudices of bigoted and designing men. Sentiments like these, proceeding from men reputed for talents and learning, were disseminated with an industry worthy of a better cause, and unfortunately gained many respectable proselytes. This new-fangled philosophy, in which the only criterion for the regulations of their actions, was their moral sense, if such a thing there be, originated in France, a country famous for its crimes, as well as for the judgments which heaven has poured down upon its devoted head. Then it was popular for the old men to neglect religion to attend to their secular concerns; to consider the important purpose for which they were sent into this world merely as a secondary object. Then it was fashionable for the young men to scoff at every thing serious, and to ridicule every appearance of piety. The ears of the well disposed were shocked with frequent and daily blaspheming, and dismay began to appear in their countenances at the growing evil.—But the cause of their alarm was groundless; for vain was the attempt to destroy that religion, whose truths are coeval with time, and whose system is supported by an omnipotent arm. In France their mad career of bloodshed and infidelity was soon brought to a close; and the heart of the christian began to rejoice, as rational men discovered that the attempt to hold society together by a moral compact without the foundation of religion, was chimerical and futile. After France had gone through a variety of revolutions, destroyed thousands of lives, among which were many of the causes of their misery, infidelity began to lose ground, and finally as a national opprobrium, ceased to be.

Let us now turn our attention from the painful account of the actions of the unworthy of a few preceding years to the pleasing and brief recital of the manner in which the gospel is received among men at the present time. This important subject seems to attract the attention of all classes of society. The youth who is yet unhackneyed in the vices of men, begins to look on the vanities and temptations of the world with an eye of indifference. Avoiding the company and disregarding the jests of his former companions who ridicule his seriousness, he takes pleasure in conversing with the pious upon the things of another world.

The hoary headed sinner, who has sinned till indeed he can sin no longer, repents of the wickedness of his past life, and tries to reconcile himself to God. Literary men are actuated by a laudable zeal to promote the cause, and contribute much by their writings to render apparent the fallacy of the opinions of men renowned for their wisdom, and to destroy the customs of war, &c. which have been sanctioned by a succession of

ages, but which are an abomination in the sight of the Lord. The anxiety of the public mind to bring about the time, when "God shall have the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost part of the earth for a possession," is abundantly manifested in its unparallelled contributions towards defraying the expenses of preaching the glad tidings of salvation to a benighted world.—Foreign missionaries find a prompt & liberal support, and no longer have to struggle with the pecuniary embarrassments under which they labored during their first attempts. It has pleased God to bless the exertions of his servants, and crown with success their united exertions in bringing many of the inhabitants of the east from darkness into light. No longer does the enlightened Bramin delight in administering the obscene and bloody rites of heathenish idolatry to an infatuated multitude. No longer does the ignorant Hindoo pay adoration to the Moloch of the east, but glorifies the God of heaven, and sees and acknowledges his wisdom and divine perfections in all his works.

But while all christians are desirous to have the gospel preached to the poor heathen in a foreign land, we ought not to neglect our brethren at home. It is a lamentable fact that many of our large towns are destitute of the means of obtaining a correct knowledge of the truths of religion, and do not enjoy the benefits of religous ordinances. This state of society in many parts of our country calls loudly on the promoters of christianity to attend to the wants of the needy. There is a town contiguous to this which, from some circumstances, I should judge would gladly receive a messenger of peace. The inhabitants have honored God, by erecting two commodious buildings for religious purposes, which, though destitute of a regular pastor, are occasionally supplied by young divines, and casual visits of the neighboring clergy. One circumstance is sufficient to show how much the people of this place hunger and thirst after righteousness—As I passed the church not long since, I noticed that most all the windows were taken out. After musing awhile to account for an appearance so uncommon in a building of this kind, I came to the conclusion, that some missionary or itinerant minister had travelled that way, and preached the word of God to a destitute people. So great was the number of them that collected in order to learn what they should do to be saved, that the house could not contain them, and consequently the windows were taken out that the multitude around might hear the tidings of great joy. True, the windows that remained in, were considerably broken; but this I attributed to the haste in which they were attempted to be removed. Places like these, where the gospel is received with such avidity, ought not to remain long unnoticed by the missionary nor bible societies, nor be entirely neglected by the clergy of the towns in their respective vicinities.

AGRICOLA.

The number of Bible Societies in the United States, known to us at the present date is 172 of which 65 are Auxiliary to the American Bible Society;—29 are composed of adult females, and 6 are Juvenile Institutions.

There are also several Branch Societies and Bible Associations.

A gentleman in Philadelphia has made a donation of Three Thousand Dollars to the Theological Seminary at Princeton, New-Jersey; and Mr. Harrison, late of Princeton, has left a legacy of One Thousand Dollars to that Seminary.

THE TWELFTH REPORT

OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

Continued from page 272.

During the course of his journey through Germany, Dr. Steinkopff had the satisfaction to assist at the formation of the six following Bible Societies.

1. One for the town and Circle of Cleve, containing a population of about 60,000 persons.

2. The Osnaburg Bible Society, in connexion with that for the kingdom of Hanover. Osnaburg comprehends a population of about 130,000 souls. The meeting for the formation of this Society was attended by the principal members of the government, (among whom is a Catholic nobleman,) and the chief Clergy. The Catholic Clergy have expressed a determination to assist in the distribution of the New Testament published by Professor Van Ess; and many of them have subscribed to this new Institution.

3. Koenigsfeld Bible Society; a small institution in the midst of the Black Forest, and surrounded with many Catholic villages, some of whose inhabitants have lately expressed an anxious wish to obtain the treasure of a Bible.

4. Nassau Homburg Bible Society, founded with the sanction of their Serene Highness, the Landgrave of Hesse Homburg, and the Duke and Prince Sovereign of Nassau.

The immediate sphere of its appointment will comprise a population of 350,000, but its effects will extend to the neighboring parts, as far as its means will admit.

5. Frankfort Bible Society. A small Bible Committee had previously existed in this town, and been actively employed for several years in the dissemination of Bibles and Testaments. This new Institution has the sanction of Government, and its funds are assisted by many of the first families in Frankfort. A Depository will be formed there, from which the neighboring Bible Societies may be conveniently furnished with copies of the Scriptures.

Bible Society for the Principalities of Neawied and Wied Runkel, containing a population of about 35,000. This undertaking was warmly encouraged by the two ruling Princes, who, with the Princess Dowager, have expressed their approbation of the efforts of the British and F. Bible Society, and their determination to assist the local Institution, as soon as the political arrangements relative to their Principalities should be completed.

The Bible Societies in Switzerland which came under the personal observation of Dr. Steinkopff, are those of Schaffhausen, St. Gall, Zurich, and Basle, among all which there subsists a friendly connexion. It may be said of them collectively, that their proceedings exhibit great zeal, and that they are liberally supported. They have already circulated more than 60,000 copies of the Scriptures. Protestants and Catholics indiscriminately receive them in the German, French, Italian, and Romanese languages; and many of the Roman Catholic Clergy have been active in their distribution. All these Societies have received gratifying proofs of the good effects produced by their benevolent labors, in the increase of moral habits, piety, domestic order, and a charitable spirit, within the sphere of their respective operations.

The Geneva Bible Society has opened a correspondence with Protestant Clergymen in France, and by their assistance has been enabled to supply many of the Protestants in that kingdom with copies of the Scriptures, at the charge of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

A Society has also been established for the principality of Neufchatel, under the sanction of the Civil and Ecclesiastical Authorities, which promises to become an useful Ally to the Societies, at Lausanne and Geneva; and, chiefly through the exertions & liberality of the former, a similar Society has been provisionally organized among the Waldenses inhabiting the vallies of Piedmont. They compose thirteen parishes, and a population of 17,000 souls: but such is their poverty, that they were not able to collect more than £50. for the purpose of purchasing the Scriptures. To the Society at Neufchatel your Committee have presented a donation of £100., and to that of the Waldenses, (or Valais,) in consideration of their particular circumstances, the sum of £200.

Your Committee regret the necessity of omitting much interesting information obtained by Dr. Steinkopff, during the course of his journey, comprising a distance of nearly 5000 miles. The Report of Dr. Steinkopff, in this, as well as in the former instance, proves the beneficial effects resulting from the personal communication of a representative of the British and Foreign Bible Society, with the Members of similar Institutions, and others disposed to promote its object, in foreign countries. The opportunities afforded by it, of kindling zeal, and encourging exertion, of developing the object of the British and Foreign Bible Society, of inculcation the importance of adhering to its fundamental principles, of communicating the benefits of its experience, of suggesting hints for improvement, and of confirming the bonds of an amicable intercourse, are advantages of the first importance to the influence and success of the Institution, all which have, in the present instance, been abundantly obtained.

Two years have elapsed since the establishment of the Danish Bible Society; but its organization was not fully completed before November last, when his Excellency Count Schimmelman was elected President, and the venerable Bishop Munter, and the President and First Deputy of the Chancery were nominated Vice-Presidents. The Committee then entered upon their operations, resolving to assemble every fortnight, and to begin the organization of Auxiliary Societies.

As one among other results of these measures, an Auxiliary Society has been established in Sleswick Holstein with the sanction of his Danish Majesty. To this Auxiliary a donation of £300. has been presented.

One of the first works determined on by the Committee of the Danish Bible Society, was, to print the Gospel of St. Matthew in the Faroese language, a dialect of the Norse, or ancient Icelandic, in which no part of the Scriptures has ever yet been published.

The information communicated in former Reports respecting Iceland, renders it necessary to enter into minute details, on the present occasion.—It will be recollected that the Rev. E. Henderson proceeded to that country with the sanction of the Committee, for the purpose of superintending the distribution of the Icelandic Scriptures, printed at the expense of the British and Foreign Bible Society. This commission, in the discharge of which he was exposed to many perils, has been executed, in a manner most satisfactory to his employers, and beneficial to the poor but grateful inhabitants of that island.

With a view to render permanent the advantages conferred on the latter Mr. Henderson, previously to his departure from Iceland, adopted prepar-

atory steps for the establishment of a Bible Society there; the foundation of which was laid at the Annual Meeting of the Synod, under the patronage of the highest Civil and Ecclesiastical Authorities.

The want of the Scriptures in Iceland was extreme; it was deeply felt and lamented by the people; but their sorrow has been turned into joy: and there is perhaps no part of the world to which the British and Foreign Bible Society has extended its benevolence, where it has been more cordially welcomed, and more gratefully acknowledged, than in Iceland.

In a pamphlet published by a respectable author at Stockholm, in March 1815, it is stated, that, previously to the establishment of the Bible Society in Sweden, not one out of eighty of the poorer classes had a copy of the Scriptures, and that, according to a well-founded calculation, not fewer than 400,000 families in that kingdom were destitute of that inestimable treasure.

Your Committee have now the satisfaction to report, that, in consequence of the active measures adopted in Sweden, these wants have already been in some measure relieved; and that every disposition prevails in that country to supply them effectually.

The Committee of the Swedish Bible Society are using every exertion in printing the Scriptures; four presses are constantly employed by it, and preparations have been made for an edition of 15,000 copies of the Bible, and for one of nearly as many Testaments.

The Societies of Gothenburg, Westeras, and Gothland, which have now become Auxiliaries to the National Bible Society at Sockholm, are all active within their respective circles. At the first of these places, a Branch Society, composed of the Scholars of a free School in Gothenburg, has been formed, at their own request, and is supported by a small weekly contribution.

Your Committee have only to add, on the subject of Sweden, that the Bible Society there has not only the Patronage of his Majesty the King, but that the Crown Prince has been a most liberal contributor to it, as well as to the Evangelical Society at Stockholm, and has promised a considerable pecuniary donation towards the establishment of a Bible Society in Norway.

[To be continued.]

From the Religious Remembrancer.

JUDGMENT AND MERCY.

JUDGMENT.

A London paper of Oct. 26, 1816, contains the following:

Awful but authentic Occurrence.—In the course of last week, a farmer near Godstone, in the county of Surry, while walking over a field with some other farmers, or farm laborers, picked up a blighted ear of corn.—With his eyes directed towards Heaven he exclaimed in a tone impiously ironical, "Art thou not ashamed, God Almighty, thus to blast the fruits of the earth!" He had scarcely uttered the words, when he fell down a corpse! We will not venture to pronounce him the object of Divine vengeance, but the coincidence is truly awful.

MERCY.

One of the Committee, of the London Tract Society stated that a Clergyman of rank and influence was so strongly prejudiced against the intro-

duction of this Society's Tracts among his neighbors, that he resolved to do all that lay in his power to impede their circulation: he propagated the most injurious reports relative to their tendency: but the publications were condemned and opposed before he had actually perused a single copy of any one of them.

Irritated by the extent to which he found that these instrusive little books were sold and otherwise distributed, and not unfrequently alarmed by the rap at his own door, announcing some poor Tract-seller's arrival; he determined to write and disperse a Tract against the Tracts, in order to discourage, and, if possible, annihilate their progress among the poor around him. With this object in view, he bought and borrowed as many of the Society's Tracts as he could procure. But amidst the severity of man behold the goodness of God! He read and examined these objects of his enmity, till "the eye was not satisfied with seeing." It was not long before a revolution took place in his judgment and affections; more particularly through the attentive perusal of Numbers 45, 118, 119, of the first series, his heart was awakened, his conscience convinced, and his whole soul humbled in the dust. The pen that had been lifted up as a signal of war, dropped from his hand, but was soon resumed as an instrument of peace. He used it in a letter of thanks to the author of one of the Tracts, blessing God for the happy change which had been thus wrought. Ever since, the poor Tract-sellers' visits, have been welcomed to his parish, and to his house.

Copy of a Letter to G. B. Vroom, Esq. Treasurer of General Synod.

Sir.—We the subscribers, in the name and behalf of "The Bergen Town Female Cent Society [this Society was instituted on the 15th of last July] in New-Jersey, for educating Indigent Students for the Gospel Ministry, and further to assist the Theological School at New-Brunswick," do hereby transmit to you the sum of One Hundred Dollars, to be applied by the Superintendents of said Seminary, to the object specified in the above name and character we have assumed. And we most heartily pray that, it may be rendered subservient to the promotion of the interest and prosperity of the Redeemer's Kingdom. If other Congregations were generally to co-operate with us, how much good might result from our united efforts, by furnishing the means to educate and send forth into the church of Christ able and well qualified Ministers, to feed the Lord's dear heritage with knowledge and understanding.

With respect, we remain yours,

Elizabeth Gautier, *First Directress*; Helen D. Gautier, *Secretary*; Maria M. Cornelison, *Treasurer*.

Bergen, Dec. 16, 1816.

December 16, 1816.

The Auxiliary Bible Society in the township of Bergen, New-Jersey, (which was organized Sept. 9, 1816) paid to the Treasurer of the American Bible Society, the sum of 150 dollars, by the hands of the Rev. John Corneilson, their President—Peter Sip, Esq. their Treasurer, and Corn. Van Winkle, Esq. their Secretary—and drew twenty-four Bibles to be distributed to the destitute in said township.

RELIGIOUS TRACTS.

Many societies have been recently formed in this country and in Europe, for the purpose of distributing Religious Tracts Through their instrumentality, many millions of these little messengers of mercy have been scattered abroad within a few years—many of them have found their way into dark and neglected places where the gospel was never heard: many of them, by the blessing of God, have been made effectual to the conviction, conversion and comfort of those who were sunk in vice and wretchedness. They have been like the voice of one crying in the wilderness; preparing the way for the Bible and missionaries; exciting a thirst for the fountain from which such pleasant draughts have been taken. Tract societies, though of less magnitude may be considered as co-workers with Bible & Missionary Societies, in extending the Redeemer's kingdom: and every real friend of this Kingdom will rejoice, that the time has come, when Christians, of all denominations, may unite on true Catholic principles, in sending the Bible and these little satelites as far as the borders of that Kingdom shall extend in our world. As most of the Tracts now in circulation in Europe, Asia, Africa and America, are the same, we presume that the following address from the London Tract Society, explaining the fundamental principles on which these Societies are established, will satisfy any one, who will read it, and the tracts that have been issued that, unless he is afraid of the truth himself, he need not fear to promote these benevolent institutions.

The Committee of "The Religious Tract Society" observe, with the most lively satisfaction and gratitude, that the principles upon which this Institution is founded, and the manner in which they have been exemplified, have commended themselves to the affectionate attention and the zealous co-operation of their Christian Brethren of various denominations; and that Auxiliary Societies have been formed, and are now forming, in different parts of the United Kingdom, for the purpose of assisting the Funds and circulating the Tracts of the parent Institution:—They are hence strongly induced to comply with the suggestions which have been received from several highly respected Friends; & in consonance therewith to publish this Official Statement and Declaration of what they consider to be the fundamental principles on which the Religious Tract Society has been established, and of the measures which have uniformly been pursued to insure a consistent and unvarying exemplification of those principles, in the different operations of this most important Institution.

In the Plan of the Institution, it is denominated "The Religious Tract Society;" and in the publication which stands at the head and front of its Volumes, the nature and qualities of the Tracts to be circulated, are thus described.—"They should consist of Pure Truth. This, flowing from the sacred fountain of the New Testament, should run from beginning to end; uncontaminated with error, undisturbed with human systems; clear as chrystal, like the river of life. There should be nothing in them of the *shibboleth* of a Sect; nothing to recommend one denomination, or to throw odium on another; nothing of the acrimony of contending parties against those that differ from them; but pure good-natured Christianity, in which all the followers of the Lamb, who are looking for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life, can unite with pleasure, as in one great common cause. Nor should any worldly scheme be interwoven with the truth nor attempted to be concealed under its folds. Here should not be seen the slightest vestige of any carnal end, in any form or for any purpose, however laudable some may think it; nothing but Divine Truth, unmingled, unadulterated, pure as it came from Heaven, and fit for the whole human race to imbibe."

The Committee cannot give a more concise and correct designation of the Religious Tracts which the Society adopt and distribute, than the foregoing paragraph furnishes. But, by way of explanation they will add, that, by *Pure Truth*, when not expressed in the words of Scripture, they

refer to those Evangelical Principles of the Reformation, in which Luther, Calvin, and Cranmer were agreed; and to that system of Doctrine and of Scriptural interpretation which is comprised in the "Harmony of the Confessions of the Reformed Churches, both at home and abroad." On this large portion of *Common ground*, which the Churchman, the Dissenter, and the Foreigner jointly occupy, they conceive that *Christian Union* may be established and strengthened; *Christian Affection* excited and cherished; and *Christian Zeal* concentrated, and rendered proportionably effective.

The Committee indulge a hope that they have satisfactorily described the *Common ground* of Scriptural Principles which is occupied by the supporters of the Religious Tract Society; and that the spirit of conciliation by which its members are actuated, and the precise and exclusive objects to which their operations are directed, are not less satisfactorily defined and explained. These Scriptural Principles, this Christian Spirit, and these legitimate and important operations, constitute the bond of union, affection, and exertion, of the Religious Tract Society. It has been, and ever will be, the most conscientious, the most willing, and the most earnest endeavor of the Committee to preserve this holy Bond from violation; and they have no hesitation in declaring;—that if at any time, or under any circumstances, they should knowingly suffer a Tract to emanate from this Institution, which should include sentiments hostile to the Principles on which it is founded, or the character or discipline of any of the denominations of Christians of which its various members are composed, such conduct would be a violation of the duties and obligations which they owe to the Society at large, and to their Christian Brethren individually, who constitute its strength, its ornament, and its efficiency.

To insure a consistent and unvarying exemplification of the Principles above referred to, has ever been the duty and the cordial endeavor of the Committee; and there has been such a perfect understanding of these Principles, as they relate to doctrinal sentiments and to the Bond of Union which connects the members of this Institution in affection and exertion, that their endeavors have been easy to themselves, and have been acknowledged to be satisfactory to the Society at large.

The measures which have been pursued to insure these harmonious operations, and to produce these happy results, chiefly have respect to the Constitution of the Committee, and to the mode and spirit of its deliberations and decisions. As the Society is composed of members of the Church of England, and of Dissenters of several denominations, the Committee has been assimilated to this leading and characteristic feature of the Institution ever since its establishment: and this measure has been attended with the utmost cordiality of operation, and been productive of the most pleasing effects. It may be added, that this principle of assimilation is preferable to any specific and determinate division of the Committee, because, it precludes any direct idea of opposition of Character and Interest; it admits of partial variations in circumstances which may make it expedient to propose or to retain, an individual, (whether a Churchman or Dissenter) whose talents and zeal may particularly benefit the Society; and it is thought to proceed upon a fair and just comparison between the Members of the Committee, and the Members of the Society, considered under their various denominations.

Finally. The Committee are convinced, that the conscientious and unvarying regard which they have ever manifested for the Scriptural Princi-

ples upon which the Religious Tract Society has been established, in connexion with the liberal and ingenuous spirit which has pervaded their deliberations and decisions, have tended to preserve the purity and impartiality of the Tracts which have been published; and have also constituted the best and most effective check that can be provided against the introduction of any thing offensive. And they are also persuaded, that a constant and faithful regard to these Principles, and an earnest endeavor to preserve and cherish the pure and peaceful spirit of Christianity, in all their deliberations and decisions, will be the likeliest means of securing the approbation of the Society at laage;—of fulfilling its benevolent Plans, and of accomplishing its most enlarged objects.

By Order of the Committee,

LEIGH RICHMOND,
JOSEPH HUGHES, } Secretaries.
C. F. A. STEINKOPFF,

Rel. Intel.

PUBLIC MEETING.

Convened at Washington hall, on the 7th inst. Concerning the Deaf and Dumb. At this meeting, before the questions were put to Mr. Clerc as published in our last, (page 276.)

The following resolutions were offered to the meeting, and unanimously adopted, viz.

Resolved, That the Ladies and Gentlemen present entertain an impressive and grateful sense of the benevolence which has induced Mr. Clerc to devote himself to the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in the United States, and tender to him their thanks for the opportunity which he has kindly afforded them of witnessing the efficacy of that system by which he has been instructed.

Resolved, That this meeting consider it to be an important and interesting duty, to aid the exertions which are making for the education of the Deaf and Dumb in our country; and that a Committee be appointed to select suitable persons to wait upon the inhabitants of the city and districts to receive contributions for this interesting object.

Whereupon, Robert Wharton, Esq. Mayor of the city, Robert Ralston, John Connelly, John Carrell, Jonah Thompson, John Steel, Peter Miercken, Ebenezer Ferguson, John Goodman, Esq. and Jonathan Knight, were appointed.

Resolved, That the Committee now appointed report the proceedings in the public prints of this city, and that the proceedings of this meeting be published with the signatures of the Chairman and Secretary.

On communicating to Mr. *Clerc* the purport of the first resolution, he immediately wrote the following acknowledgment:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am more sensible than I can express, for your thanks, and I assure you that nothing has given me more pleasure in this city, than the opportunity of having been a witness of your good disposition towards the Deaf and Dumb of your country, whoever they may be—I shall soon leave your city with the satisfaction of having procured benefactors to those unfortunates.

THE INTELLIGENCER.

SANGERFIELD, JANUARY 6, 1817

DIED

In this town on the 1st inst. a Mr. FITKIN, aged about 30 years. His death is supposed to have been occasioned by opium administered by himself.

DEATH OF DR. BACKUS.

The public will participate in the sorrow we feel in performing the melancholy duty of announcing to the world the sudden death of the Rev. AZEL BACKUS, D. D and President of Hamilton College who died on the night of the 26th ultimo, after a short but very distressing sickness of the typhus fever, aged 51.

Under the hope, and expectation of being furnished with a Byographocal scetch of the life of this worthy man, we forbear saying any thing further in this place.

CONGRESS.

Mr. Hugh Nelson, of the House, from the committee on the Judicary, has reported a bill for the appointment of circuit judges throughout the U. S. on a plan something similar to the system of President Adams.

A classification of militia has also been recommended and a plan for that purpose submitted.

Unfavorable reports have been made on sundry petitions for compensations for property said to have been lost during the war. A disposition seems to be manifested to enquire into the decisions of the commissioner appointed by a law of last session, and to render compensation less general then the liberal construction he had given the act would allow.

An important report has been made, (said to be from the pen of Mr Webster of N. H.) on the subject of the compensation bill, recommending an alteration from the salary to a daily allowance.

Propositions are before congress for an amendment of the constitution so as to produce uniformity in the mode of choosing representatives to congress and electors of president, and vice-president, and to provide for their election by the people in districts.

Gen. J. Villere is chosen governor of Louisiana.

Hon. John W Eppes is elected a senator in congress from the state of Virginia.

Gen. William H. Winder is unanimous-elected a Senator in the legislature of Maryland, in the place of Hon John E. Howard resigned.

William Smith, is chosen a senator in congress from S. Carolina, in the place of Mr. Taylor.

By an arrival at New-York, information is received that Ft. Montablane, which commands the road near the cities Orizovi and Cordova, was captured Nov. 15, by the royalists, by stratagem. After several unsuccessful attempts to gain possession, 2 companies of royalists threw down their arms and went over to the patriots, by whom they were armed and entrusted with a participation in the defence of the fort. In the night they rose upon them, and assisted by the troops without overcame the garison. Gen. Vittoria, the patriot commander, is beseiging the royalists, and also carrying on other important operations.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT.—The house of Mr. Alden Washburn of Tamworth, was consumed by fire on Monday the 25th ult. and at the raising of another house on the same spot, on the Saturday following, as they were putting on the last beam, the chimney fell, and shocking to relate, six men were knocked off—three fell into the celler and three without. Mr. Aaron Downs was killed on the spot: John M. Page, Esq and Nathaniel Hayford, jun. were wounded, but are now doing well. Mr. Downs has left a disconsolate widow and eight children to mourn their loss.

New-York, Dec.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—We are sorry to have to state, that the new Steam-Boat burst her boiler yesterday morning, while at wharf, just as she was about to start, by which accident a child of Mr. Wait, chocolate maker, of Boston about 7 years old, was so severely scalded that he died a few hours after, and two or three other children were so much scalded that we understand their lives are despaired of.—Mr. Orr, the engineer, and Mr. Dodd machinist of the boat, and two passengers were also injured by the boiling water.

We learn (says the Gazette) that the two boys who were so badly burnt were the sons of Mr. Wait jun. who had been at school at Elizabethtown, and who had been home for a week on a visit—and it is painful to state, that the eldest son of Mr. Wait, aged 8 years died at 4, and the the other son aged about 6, died at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

It appears, that the boat was in an unfinished state, there being no partition between the boilers and cabin. The two sons of Mr Wait were sitting in the cabin when the explosion took place, and were the only persons seriously injured.

GAMUTS,

JUST printed and for sale at this Office—either with or without blank Staves—by the doz. or single.

ARGUS SUMMARY.

A report comes from St. Domingo, that the Spaniards are about to exchange their part of this island, with France, for Cayenne.

A Georgetown, (D. C.) paper, of the 17th, mentions the arrival there, in 60 days from Kentucky, of a drove of 1000 hogs. So that congress are likely to be supplied at least with pork. The same paper mentions that quantities of corn will be sent from the same quarter, via New-Orleans. It is understood that the crops in the western states have been abundant; and it is presumed the price in the old states will well pay for the transportation of grain from Kentucky and Ohio, by water.

John J. Crittenden is chosen a senator in congress from Kentucky, to take his seat after the 4th of March.

Petion is chosen president of Hayti for life and his salary is fixed at 80,000 dollars.

At the late oyer and terminer in New-York, Diana Sellick, a black woman, was tried for the murder of her child, and found guilty, but recommended to mercy. The court sentenced her to be hung in April.

Gen. Scott, and Capt. Warrington, of the navy, have been complimented with a very splendid dinner by the citizens of Richmond, the metropolis of their native state.

We have foreign dates down to the 5th Nov. We find the same contradiction and uncertainty as heretofore in regard to the price and probable scarcity of bread stuffs. These contradictory statements often originate with speculators, from interested views. The prices in England had, however, somewhat advanced. A scarcity is spoken of in the Netherlands and France, and some accounts add Russia. Lord Wellington was establishing grain magazines for his army upon the French frontiers.

The Virginia Literary Fund amounts to nearly half a million of dollars. Among the sources which contribute to this fund, are the fines imposed for the breach of the laws; thus making vice contribute to the promotion of virtue.

A committee have reported in the Virginia legislature, in favor of taking the sense of the people on calling a convention to amend the constitution.

Elijah P. Goodrich, Esq. was recently robbed near Boston, of 1700 dollars, and severely beaten by three foot pads.

Gen. Savary, duke of Rovigo, was preparing, at the last dates, to leave Smyrna, in an American vessel, for the U. States. Lallemande had started for America, via England.

The tavern-house and store of A Brigham, in Jaffrey, N. H. has been burnt;—damage 3000 dollars.

Belvoir castle, the mansion of the duke of Rutland, was burnt on the 25th Oct. £40,000 were insured upon it. The paintings alone were valued at 80,000£.

His excellency Gov. Williams, in his communication to the Legislature, in mentioning the attempt at insurrection last summer by the slaves, states that a plot was secretly carried on at Camden until it was communicated to a faithful servant, by whom it was immediately disclosed and made known to him. By means of that servant, an aid of the governor was enabled to carry on a counter plot, and to obtain ample evidence of the guilty designs of the conspirators without using the testimony of the servant who made the disclosure. He recommends the faithful slave to the attention of the legislature, and will make known his name and condition to their committee.

Gov. Brooks, and Lt. Gov. Phillips are again in nomination for their respective offices in Massachusetts.

SANGERFIELD ACADEMY.

THE Trustees of this School inform the public, that the Second Quarter of Mr. PHILO GRIDLEY's teaching, will commence on Monday the 6th of January next. Mr. Gridley came to this School highly recommended by Doct. Backus, Professor Norton, and others of the Faculty and Students of Hamilton College. The Trustees now have the pleasure of saying to the public, that the encomiums bestowed by them were not misplaced. Gentlemen who may wish to fit their sons for College, or to give them a grammatical education, will find it to their advantage to place them under his care. Board can be obtained on reasonable terms, in good families in the neighborhood. The Trustees pledge themselves, that every exertion on their part shall be used to preserve the good conduct and moral deportment of all Scholars that may attend the School. Dec. 23, 1816.

JAMES L. PALMER,
HENRY HEARSEY,
JEREMIAH CLARK,
JOSEPH WILLIAMS,
EDWARD TRASK,
REUBEN TOWER,
} Trustees.

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